

HOUSE RESOLUTION 32

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Head Coach
Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts.

WHEREAS, from time to time this General Assembly finds it appropriate to honor and commend those exceptional individuals who have contributed significantly to their profession and their community; and

WHEREAS, one such person is Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, who has guided the National Football League franchise to remarkable success, including, most significantly, an appearance in Super Bowl XLI; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2007, Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy faced Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith in one of professional sports' most prized championships; in an historic matchup, Super Bowl XLI marked the first time two African-American head coaches have led their teams to the Super Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dungy took the helm of the Indianapolis Colts on January 22, 2002, after serving six seasons with Tampa Bay; in his first four seasons with the club, Tony Dungy directed the Colts to four playoff appearances, three AFC South titles, and one AFC Championship game, and in 2007 he added to this impressive list a Super Bowl championship; and

WHEREAS, one of the most respected and popular NFL coaches, Tony Dungy was born October 6, 1955, in Jackson, Michigan, and graduated from Parkside High School in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dungy played quarterback for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers from 1973 to 1976, finishing as the school's career leader in pass attempts, completions, passing yards, and touchdown passes. He rushed 413 times for 1,345 yards and

sixteen touchdowns, earning the team's Most Valuable Player Award two times. As a senior, he played in the East-West Shrine Game, the Hula Bowl, and the Japan Bowl; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Tony Dungy signed as a free agent with the Pittsburgh Steelers in May of 1977; he was converted from quarterback to wide receiver to safety and, when he made the team, he was the first free agent to make the Steelers' final roster in two seasons; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Tony Dungy helped secure a 15-9 victory over the Cleveland Browns with a last-play interception that he returned sixty-five yards; he played in the Steelers' 35-31 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XIII, then, the following year in training camp, was traded to the San Francisco 49ers for a 1980 10th-round draft choice. He played in fifteen games for the 49ers that season, then was traded to the New York Giants before the following season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dungy began his coaching career in 1980, serving as defensive backs coach at his alma mater; his first NFL coaching job came with the Steelers, where he worked from 1981 to 1988, developing into one of NFL's top young defensive assistants. From 1989 to 1991, he served as defensive backs coach for the Kansas City Chiefs, defensive coordinator for the Minnesota Vikings from 1992 to 1995, and head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1996 until 2001; and

WHEREAS, while with the Buccaneers, Dungy was active in the community, working as a public speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes in Action; he launched Mentors for Life, a program that provided tickets to Buccaneers home games to area youth and their mentors, and he was also a supporter of children's charitable programs such as Family First, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Prison Crusade Ministry, and foster parenting organizations; and

WHEREAS, Coach Dungy's voluminous community works continue in Indianapolis, where he has helped implement a local Basket of Hope program that benefits Riley Hospital for Children and teamed with others in assisting All-Pro Dad, a family-based organization, and he was a spokesman for Arby's Combo to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Dungy's reach throughout the area includes works and appearances with the Black

Coaches Association National Convention and Indiana Black Expo, and he frequently participates in speaking appearances at area faith-based events and family football clinics; and

WHEREAS, Tony Dungy is one of the most brilliant coaches in the National Football League, where he is widely respected by players and coaching peers alike; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements aside, Tony is most proud of the love and support he shares with his wife Lauren, and they are the parents of five children, daughters Tiara and Jade, and sons Eric, Jordan, and the late James Dungy; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor one of our Nation's most respected sports figures; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate Head Coach Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts for his extraordinary accomplishments on the field and commend his admirable contributions to his community, extending to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.